

THE NUNES REPORT

Inside this issue:

Rep. Nunes awarded 2

Fighting for the pledge 2

Defending a judicial nominee 4

Nunes helps form Hispanic Conference 5

March is busy legislative month 6

Looking for interns, art students 7

Support for troops, help for residents 8

Rep. Nunes unveils roads agenda

"This is an opportunity for the Central Valley to get back some of the dollars we lose every year to the federal government."

Fighting for the Central Valley's fair share of transportation dollars, Rep. Devin Nunes is seeking funding for crucial projects in Fresno and Tulare counties.

At a press conference in Visalia, Mr. Nunes laid out his transportation agenda for the next several years, including a focus on widening stretches of Highway 99 from two to three lanes, repairing farm-to-market roads and improving traffic conditions around the CSUF Save Mart Center and Fresno Yosemite International Airport, among others.

Mr. Nunes submitted the requests to be included in the second round of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21). When first enacted, the act authorized a total of \$218 billion for federal highway and mass transit programs from FY1998 to FY2003, and set aside over \$12 billion for several programs to mitigate the environmental impacts of surface transportation. That helped pay for the UC Cam-



Congressman Devin Nunes addresses the media with Tulare County Supervisor Connie Conway on vital transportation projects for the 21st Congressional District.

pus Parkway Loop System in Merced, the extension of Highway 180 between Highway 99 and the Hughes/West Diagonal, to extend Highway 41 in Madera County and to construct roads in Tulare County.

For the 108th Congress, Mr. Nunes has submitted requests for funds on nine projects in both counties.

"This is an opportunity for the Central Valley to get back some of the dollars we lose every year to the federal government," Mr. Nunes said. "And with California's budget woes looming ever larger,

this may be the only chance for some of these critical projects to get the financing they need to be completed."

Mr. Nunes emphasized the need to widen nearly 25 miles of Highway 99. Officials for the state Department of Transportation estimate traffic volumes along the highway will double by 2020.

Among the requests Mr. Nunes submitted:

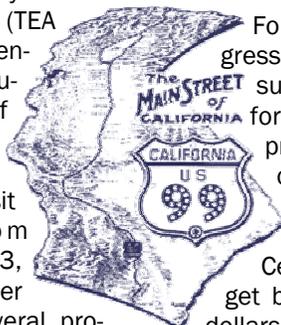
Highway 99

\$158 million to widen 24.9 miles of Highway 99 in Tulare County from near Tulare to north of the Conejo Avenue over-crossing.

See Roads page 3



Tulare Union High School students Maria Olivarez, Robert Perez, Esiquio Franco in Washington with the Close Up Foundation visit with Rep. Nunes (March 2003).



Rep. Nunes named CA Outstanding Young Farmer

The state's top farmers converged in Modesto in February for the California Jaycees 2003 Outstanding Young Farmers luncheon (OYF), a preliminary to the selection of four national winners selected each year from the top 25 state winners.

OYF winners are recognized for their progress in agricultural career, soil and water conservation practices, and contributions to community, state and nation. Among those leaders, Fresno City Jaycees nominee, Congressman Devin Nunes representing California's 21st congressional district, was selected as California's Outstanding Young Farmer.

The annual event sponsored by Farm Credit honored the achievements of a diverse group of enterprising farmers across California. The Fresno City Junior Cham-

ber of Commerce, affiliated with the California Junior Chamber of Commerce hosted the event with the assistance from the Modesto Jaycees.

The Outstanding Young Farmer Program recognizes farmers for innovative, efficient farming operations that use natural resources wisely. The Outstanding Young Farmer program also encourages better urban-rural relations and greater interest in the farmer through appreciation of the farmers' contributions and achievements.

The National OYF Program is administered by the US Junior Chamber of Commerce, sponsored by the Outstanding Farmers of America Fraternity and the National Association of County Agriculture Agents.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce provides personal and professional develop-



With Rep. Nunes is US Junior Chamber 83rd President Mike Faller California Jaycees Community Development Vice President & Fresno City Jaycees Chairman of the Board, Gina Redondo

ment through civic involvement to men and women ages 21-39. There are some 80,000 members in more than 2,000 chapters across the nation.

Quick Facts:

In March, Rep. Nunes wrote to 981 constituents in response to their inquiries. Year to date, Mr. Nunes has responded to 2,228 constituents via the U.S. Mail.

Congressman helps lead fight for pledge



Rep. Devin Nunes was one of the first legislators to co-sponsor a bill calling for the U.S. Supreme Court to review and overturn a 9th Circuit Court decision banning the Pledge of Allegiance from public school classrooms.

"This is yet another example of the cultural erosion of the founding principles of

this country," Mr. Nunes said. "I will do whatever I can to ensure that our basic values are preserved for future generations."

As an original co-sponsor, Mr. Nunes helped lead the fight to preserve the pledge with House Resolution 132 EH. The bill passed the House on a 400-7 vote.

The legislation stemmed from a June 26, 2002, ruling by the Circuit Court that held the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag as currently written to include the phrase, 'one Nation, under God,' unconstitutionally endorses religion.

The House of Representatives vehemently disagreed. The bill countered the finding by pointing out that the phrase reflects the religious faith that was central to the Founding Fathers and thus to the founding of the nation; that it is a patriotic act, not an act or statement of religious faith or belief; and that the President should nominate and the Senate should confirm Federal circuit court judges who interpret the Constitution consistent with the Constitution's text, among other findings.

Roads requests—cont.'d from page 1

The projects were listed on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for funding but due to California's financial problems have not been funded.

"Highway 99 is essential to the San Joaquin Valley's ag economy," Mr. Nunes said. "It is the primary transportation corridor for farm to market deliveries. The largest percentage of population growth in the state is occurring in the Central Valley and Highway 99 is increasingly suffering from gridlock and dangerous traffic conditions."

Tulare County

\$6.2 million for improvements to the Ben Maddox Bridge at Hwy 198

This project will improve the Ben Maddox Way Bridge crossing Highway 198 in Visalia. The improvements include widening the existing over-crossing structure from five lanes to eight lanes, restriping and widening Ben Maddox Way as it approaches the over-crossing, and widening Noble Avenue. The city is also seeking funds to include the widening of the on/off ramps from Highway 198 to the frontage roads of Mineral King Avenue and Noble Avenue, as well as the signalization of Mineral King Avenue and the on/off ramps for west bound Highway 198.

\$5 million for the City of Visalia's bus maintenance facility

The city that has experienced significant growth over the last 25 years, and its population is expected to continue to grow at a very

fast rate for the foreseeable future. In meeting the challenges this growth presents, the city is seeking to expand its municipal bus service to better serve the populace both in and around Visalia. An important element in these efforts is its planned bus maintenance facility. Located near the city's new transit center, the maintenance facility will provide critical service in the repair and upkeep of not only the city's bus fleet, but also that of Tulare County. The project is vital to the city's plans to sustain necessary, adequate and safe public transit to its citizenry.

\$58 million for the avenue 416/Mountain View widening project near the City of Dinuba.

The Avenue 416/Mountain View corridor provides an essential link between Highways 99 and 63. State transportation officials have determined that this corridor provides the most efficient flow of traffic in the east-west direction for northern Tulare County.

\$60 million for the rehabilitation of farm to market roads in Tulare County

The rehabilitation of Tulare County's farm-to-market road system involves both roads and bridges that serve Tulare County's agriculture. In 2001, Tulare was the number one agricultural producing county in the nation, with a commodity value of \$3.5 billion. From 1970 to 2001, agricultural income has increased from \$0.4 billion to \$3.5 billion. Over that same time period, the

farm commodity tonnage for certain crops has increased nearly 400% and has added over 300,000 trucks to the county roads. Tulare County ranks fourth in California with over 3,000 miles in maintained mileage.

Fresno County

\$2,741,505 for the Dry Creek and Enterprise Canal trail project

The community trails systems along Dry Creek and the Enterprise Canal were identified in the mid-1970's by Fresno County as regional recreational trail routes of countywide significance. The Enterprise Canal trail corridor extends via Shaw Avenue from the Friant-Kern Canal on the east to the San Joaquin River bluffs on the west via Copper Avenue. The Big Dry Creek trail corridor is portrayed as a regional trail extending from the Southern Pacific rail line (Clovis Old Town trail) on the south to Sunnyside Avenue and the Enterprise Canal on the north.

\$2 million request for the City of Fresno for a Major Investment Study

This project will evaluate both the environmental and economic impact of developing alternative mass transportation within a specified corridor. The analysis will be used to determine which mode of transportation will be most effective in reducing congestion and improving air quality.

\$10,730,000 to improve traffic circulation and operations in the vicinity of California State University, Fresno

Transportation Equity Act funding of this project will allow the City of Fresno to build upon improvements recently completed at the Willow/Ashlan and the Willow/Shaw intersections and has been deemed essential in anticipation of the construction of the Save Mart Center, a multi-purpose facility for sporting and concert events. It consists of the installation of dual left turn lanes, traffic signal modification, roadway widening and reconstruction of curb and gutters, completion of median island work, installation of conduits for future fiber optics, and repaving of the intersections. Additionally, the project will include widening Chestnut from 2 to 4 lanes between Shaw and Bullard Avenues.

\$10 million to alleviate traffic congestion on Peach Avenue near the Fresno airport

The goal of this project is to make improvements on Peach Avenue to provide better access to the Fresno Yosemite International Airport, the primary commercial airport in the San Joaquin Valley. The airport is vital to the local economy and serves six counties in the San Joaquin Valley. Recently, significant improvements have been made to the airport and it is expected that passenger use will increase. This proposal would allow for Peach Avenue to adequately handle the increases in traffic that are expected. The specific task of this proposal is to widen Peach Avenue between Butler and Belmont Avenues to a divided four-lane street.

The Nunes Report

Note—Members of the Congressional Hispanic Conference submitted this editorial in defense of Circuit Court nominee Miguel Estrada, which ran March 17 in the Wall Street Journal. The conference members' photos are below, along with Mr. Nunes.



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
ONLINE



**Rep. Henry Bonilla,
R-Texas**



**Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart,
R-Florida**



**Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart,
R-Florida**



**Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen,
R-Florida**

Hispanic Conference fights for Estrada

The Democratic filibuster against federal appellate court nominee Miguel Estrada has been nothing less than a partisan assault on the goal of achieving diversity in our nation's high-

est public institutions. Fewer than 4% of federal judges are Hispanic, yet 44 Senate Democrats, who run on "diversity" platforms have so far employed parliamentary procedures to thwart diversity and obstruct the confirmation of an eminently well-qualified lawyer through the use of double standards – standards they never applied to other nominees.

These Democrats, who credit themselves with helping advance minorities to high government positions, now prevent the first Hispanic from serving on our nation's second highest court by blocking the bipartisan majority that wants an honest up or down vote. The hypocrisy hurts America's largest minority group and strikes at the core of the American Dream.

One of the most offensive aspects of the opposition to the nomination of Mr. Estrada is the notion put forth by some Hispanic Democrats and leftist activist groups that he is "Hispanic in name only" – that because he is a mainstream lawyer, he doesn't represent the Hispanic community. Are we truly willing to exclude our accomplished minorities on the grounds that they have not pigeonholed their careers by focusing on one racial community? The suggestion jeopardizes the future of other qualified Hispanics because of unacceptable ideological bars. But

apparently Democrats believe that they alone should get to decide what a "Hispanic" should be.

We wish Mr. Estrada's plight were a novelty, but we are concerned that it is just one manifestation of a pervasive and troubling trend whereby the advancement of minorities is only applauded when it reinforces liberal politics. To counter this trend and to allow for the positive advancement of Hispanics in the U.S., the Hispanic Republican members of Congress are announcing with this article the formation of the Congressional Hispanic Conference.

The new Hispanic Conference will promote policy outcomes that serve the best interests of Americans of Hispanic and Portuguese descent and thereby all Americans. In this endeavor we are pledged to place principle above partisanship on issues directly affecting the betterment of the Hispanic and Portuguese communities.

A key goal of the Hispanic Conference is to promote principles that are of real importance to Hispanics and Portuguese in the U.S. These include the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, the emerging common market of this hemisphere's democracies; tax relief to American families by eliminating the death tax and marriage penalty and bringing relief to more than two million Hispanic-owned small businesses; the support of faith-based initiatives; and educational choice for all.

In the case of judicial nominees, the Hispanic Conference is committed to ensuring that only the best qualified nominees are ap-



**Rep. Devin Nunes is
Vice Chairman of the
newly formed
Congressional Hispanic
Conference.**

pointed to our federal courts.

As we enter another week of extra-constitutional procedural tactics aimed at blocking Mr. Estrada's confirmation, it is clear to us that there is a significant need for the formation of the new Hispanic Conference. We support the nomination of Mr. Estrada, not only because his superb credentials make him an ideal appointee, but also because – for so many of us who are the sons and daughters of immigrants – Mr. Estrada's story represents the American promise.

To block his confirmation is not only a dangerous constitutional precedent, but also one whose impact could forever alter that promise – that there is no limit to the possibility of success in America. We must not put a ceiling on the American dream, and so we join our voices as the new Congressional Hispanic Conference. We can think of no more appropriate first act than to champion Mr. Estrada's confirmation and to defend the reason we all came here.

Rep. Nunes helps form Hispanic Conference

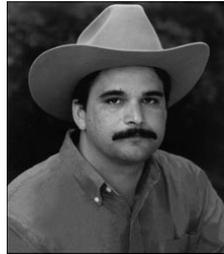
As a member of Congress, it's my job to be the voice of the people in my district. A large portion of that district includes the hard-working people of the Hispanic and Portuguese communities.

Like many members, I sought to join caucuses of other congressmen where our collective influence could make a difference for our shared values. I looked long and hard at the Hispanic Caucus as an avenue to champion issues of importance to one of my key constituencies. However, I found that group's beliefs bore no resemblance to the values of the vast majority of Hispanic and Portuguese citizens.

Thus, the choice I made was obvious and easy. I helped form the Congressional Hispanic Conference with six other

legislators from around the country, including San Joaquin Valley Congressman Richard Pombo.

I am proud of my Portuguese heritage and of my roots in the Azores Islands.



Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Tracy

The conference is an inclusive group that welcomes members of various backgrounds, from Hispanic and Portuguese, to Cuban and Brazilian and others. Though we are separate, distinct communities in some respects, it is important that we all work together to promote the ideals that we do in fact share: Liberty, freedom, and the pursuit of the

American Dream.

The key goal of the conference is to help with the betterment of the Hispanic and Portuguese communities largely by promoting the interests and preferred policy outcomes of Americans of Hispanic and Portuguese descent.

I have a strong belief and commitment to the American Dream, which holds that there is no limit to the possibility of success. When my family and others came to this country they believed in this ideal as well. My being part of the Hispanic Conference helps to promote this belief by using my role as a legislator, to try to foresee and to promote legislation that will help the district, and in turn, the nation. Some of the ideas that I and the other members wish to promote

are: the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, faith-based initiatives, financial and tax relief to small businesses, the end of the marriage penalty, and the repeal of the death tax.

As most people know, there is a large Hispanic population in the 21st Congressional District (about 43%), there are also significant Portuguese, Armenian, and Hmong communities. My role here is to represent all people in the district, not just those of one particular heritage.

The Hispanic Conference finds its strength in the heritage of its members, pressing on to achieve shared goals that have benefits that reach beyond ethnicity to the betterment of all of our constituents.

Key Issues

Free Trade—The flow of goods and services will act as a positive force in helping equalize income disparities throughout the globe. Thus, the Hispanic Conference supports the creation of the Free Trade Act of the Americas, as well as the common market of this hemisphere's emerging democracies.

National Defense—The conference is committed to supporting all efforts by the Administration, our military, and our federal agencies to prevent future attacks against America.

Supporting Qualified Judicial Nominees—The conference is committed to ensuring that only the most qualified and ideologically fit Hispanic judicial nominees are appointed to our federal courts.

Fiscal Discipline—Committed to policies that provide common sense tax relief while strongly adhering to the principle of fiscal discipline. Support the elimination of the Death Tax, the Marriage Tax, and the Double Taxation of Dividends.

Strong supporters of tax relief for small businesses which will aid the over 2 million Hispanic- and Portuguese-owned small businesses.

Faith-Based Initiatives—We hope to increase the scope of participation of faith-based organizations through the removal of barriers, which restrict their ability to help communities.

Schools of Choice—Publicly funded schools of choice programs help low-income families from racially diverse backgrounds. Provides accountability to school districts as well as incentive to innovate.

Cuba—The economic embargo and travel restrictions cannot be lifted until the three following conditions are satisfied. First, all political prisoners are liberated. Second, all political parties, independent labor unions, and independent press are legalized. Third, free and fair internationally supervised elections are held.

March is busy, productive for Congressman Nunes

In this round up:

Agriculture	Appropriations
Meth	Taxes
Trade	Transportation
Housing	

Agriculture

Milk

Rep. Devin Nunes co-sponsored H.R. 1160, the Milk Import Tariff Equity Act. The bill seeks to prevent the unrestricted importation of dairy proteins currently flooding the U.S. market and contributing to the lowest prices in a quarter century. Milk Protein Concentrates are relatively new to the market and were not included in the General Agreement of Trade and Tariffs, as the ultra-filtration technology did not exist. H.R. 1160 is supported by the National Milk Producers Federation, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Farmers Organization, the National Grange and the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

Poultry

Mr. Nunes joined a coalition of Representatives asking for the President's assistance in expeditiously resolving trade barriers imposed upon U.S. poultry by the Russian government. Recently, Russia imposed additional barriers to U.S. exports citing the failure of the two governments to agree on a veterinary agreement. Russia's trade restrictions have the potential of losses exceeding \$800 million to American producers.

Appropriations

Rep. Nunes expressed his

strong support to have the following projects included in the Fiscal Year 2004 Appropriations bills that will be passed later this year:

Agriculture

International Agri-Center, Tulare—\$1 million to provide matching funds for the International Agri-Center, so that it may fully equip the Heritage Complex Learning Center and complete construction of a new 20,000 square foot exhibit pavilion. Also signed by Reps. Bill Thomas and George Radanovich.

California Olive Industry—\$766,600 to conduct crucial research and trapping activities related to the olive fruit fly in California

Central Valley Applied Agricultural Technology Center, Clovis -- \$1.5 million for the Central Valley Applied Agricultural Technology Center. These funds will be used to develop a project-based learning curriculum that will more effectively address the needs of today's high school students. Also signed by Rep. Radanovich.

Cutler and Orosi Sewer System—\$5 million to provide funding for a sanitary sewer system project in the communities of Cutler and Orosi.

Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) - \$1 million in the fiscal year 2004 Agriculture Appropriations Act to provide funding for the Food Animal



Rep. Devin Nunes, along with Rep. George Radanovich, sent a letter to the National Park Service requesting they consider setting aside a decision to discontinue the operation of the Wolverton Pack Station pending a decision on the exact location of a new pack station.

Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD).

Farm to Market Roads: Tulare -- \$10 million to provide funding for the rehabilitation of farm to market roads in Tulare County.

Air Quality—\$500,000 to continue the Central California Ozone Study in the United States Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Extension State Research, Education, and Extension Service account (Delegation request led by Rep. Thomas).

Fresno State—\$1.5 million for the California State University, Fresno, Agriculture Technology Institute (Request led by Rep. Radanovich)

Defense

Navy—\$12 million for research, development, testing, evaluation, and enhancements to the United States Navy's Intelligent Agent Security Module (IASM) - developed by a California based company.

(Request with members of the California delegation).

Housing

Mr. Nunes, along with a number of his Central Valley colleagues, sent a letter to Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Thomas in support of an itemized tax deduction for the cost of mortgage insurance, government-sponsored, as well as private, for taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of \$100,000 or less. This simple proposal would increase homeownership, particularly among first-time homebuyers, minorities and veterans, who are the biggest purchasers of mortgage insurance, by as much as 300,000 new homes each year. It would give existing homeowners who are currently paying mortgage insurance an average tax savings of \$200 per year.

Meth

Rep. Nunes, along with Rep. Bill Thomas, wrote to

See Roundup page 7

Internships offer learning experience

Rep. Devin Nunes is looking for college students with the right stuff to be interns in his Visalia, Clovis and Capitol offices.

The selected candidates will join a busy team of professionals working on issues vital to the Central Valley. Job duties will include handling mail, answering phones, attending meetings and assisting staff members on projects, among other tasks.

"Interns play an important role in the operation of any Congressional office, and we play an important role in



their education and professional development," Mr. Nunes said. "We get the extra hands and minds we need to represent our constituents and the interns get

practical experience in dealing with the public and learning the government system from the inside out."

Applicants must be currently enrolled in college with at least a 3.0 grade point average. To apply, send a cover letter and resume to the district office at 113 N. Church St., Visalia CA, 93291. The deadline to apply is April 30. Summer internships begin June 2.

For more information, applicants can call (559) 733-3861. Or submit questions online by logging on to www.nunes.house.gov.

Roundup—cont.'d from page 6

John P. Walters, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to express their support for increasing the level of funding for the Central Valley High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) in Fresno. Mr. Nunes asked that ONDCP provide the Central Valley HIDTA with a funding increase of \$1.5 million for Fiscal Year 2003.

Tax

Congressman Nunes, along with a number of his colleagues on the Congressional Wine Caucus, is seeking to repeal the special occupational tax on alcohol (SOT). Mr. Nunes and others sent a letter to Ways and Means Committee Chairman, Bill Thomas, expressing their support for the repeal. The tax, which was originally established to generate revenue for the Civil War, hits small business the hardest - many of whom pay more than producers and

distillers. Retailers must pay \$250 per location; wholesalers pay \$500; and vintners and distillers pay \$1,000. Thus, a family business operating five retail outlets pays more than the country's largest distiller.

Trade

Congressman Nunes was asked by the House of Representatives leadership to participate in the House Trade Group. This group is a task force designed to assist the House of Representatives leadership on the best way to address the many trade agreements that are currently under negotiation.

Transportation

Visalia Municipal Airport

Rep. Nunes asked Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta to investigate whether United Airlines is violating the Essential Air Services Order for Visalia by requiring passengers en-

route to Los Angeles to change planes in Fresno.

While appreciating the challenges airlines face in today's economy, including the need to operate as efficiently as possible, non-stop service to Los Angeles should not involve changing planes in Fresno, Mr. Nunes said.

Currently, United is operating two separate flights; one out of Visalia and another out of Fresno. The airline apparently packages these flights for Visalia customers and labels them non-stop service. This may violate the Essential Air Service Order, which mandates non-stop service from Visalia to a major hub.



Nunes hosts high school art competition

Rep. Devin Nunes is hosting a high school art competition to seek out the best artistic talent in the 21st Congressional District.

The winning entry will be put on display for a year in Washington, D.C.'s Cannon Tunnel - a pedestrian walkway leading to the U.S. Capitol. There the artwork will also be judged against that of other high school students from around the nation as part of the 22nd Annual Congressional Art Competition.

Since the first competition in 1982, legislators have held nearly 5,000 local contests involving more than 650,000 high school students.

All artwork and signed release forms must be received in Mr. Nunes' Visalia or Clovis offices no later than Monday, April 21. After judging takes place by a distinguished panel of local art experts, the winner and runners up will be announced at a reception and press conference in Visalia.

Each winning student will receive an invitation to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Cannon Tunnel display on June 24, 2003. Southwest Airlines has offered 10 percent off of their lowest fare to Baltimore-Washington International Airport for the event from any destination between June 17-July 1.

For more information, contact Melanie Swager in Mr. Nunes' office, 733-3861.

Pledging support to Bush and U.S. troops

Rep. Devin Nunes has attended nearly a dozen classified briefings on Iraq since taking office. He has agreed with the Administration position on the threat Saddam Hussein poses and wholeheartedly supports U.S. troops around the world.

“Clearly we cannot afford to idly stand by,” Mr. Nunes said. “We gave Saddam Hussein a choice: Disarm or be disarmed. He has regrettably chosen the latter.”

“My thoughts and prayers are with the brave men and women of the U.S. military, our allied forces and with the innocent Iraqi people who have suffered long under Hussein’s tyrannical regime. I make a solemn pledge to support our forces doing this



action and for the likely rebuilding that will occur in the months and years ahead.”

“My colleagues and I look forward to the day when the Iraqi people determine their own destiny through a de-

mocratic government that protects the rights of the individual and seeks a peaceful existence with its neighbors.”

Wartime resolutions Rep. Devin Nunes has supported:

H. Con. Res. 118: Concerning the treatment of members of the Armed Forces held as prisoner of war by Iraqi authorities.

H.R. 153: Recognizing the public need for fasting and prayer in order to secure the blessings and protection of Providence for the people of the United States and our Armed Forces during the conflict in Iraq and under the threat of terrorism at home.

H. Con. Res. 104: Expressing the Support and Appreciation of the Nation for the President and the Members of the Armed Forces Who are Participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

H.R. 1307: Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act

Nunes posts preparedness information online

Rep. Devin Nunes joined Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge in urging citizens to be better prepared to cope with emergencies that might arise in their community, ranging from natural disasters to terrorist attacks.

“In uncertain times like these, it makes sense to adopt the Boy Scouts motto: Be prepared,” said Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Tulare. “There are practical steps we should all take to be prepared for any emergency, whether it is a natural disaster, power outage or other unforeseen event.”

The likelihood of you and your family surviving a house fire depends as much on having working smoke detector and exit strategy, as on a well-trained fire department. The same is true for surviving a terrorist attack. Residents should have the tools

and plans in place to make it on their own, at least for a period of time. Just like having a working smoke detector, preparing for the unexpected makes sense, according to Homeland Security officials.

At a Homeland Security briefing earlier this week, officials distributed a brochure that lays out the practical steps any citizen could take to prepare themselves for an emergency. **A copy of the brochure can be downloaded in PDF form from Mr. Nunes’ Web site.** Print copies are expected to be available soon.

Mr. Nunes has been part of the country’s frontline defense against terrorism. In early February, he took part in a simulated bio-terrorist attack against the nation’s agricultural industry.

As one of the key partici-



As Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position.

pants, Mr. Nunes and a handful of his colleagues in Congress helped decide how lawmakers might respond in the situation.

O n l i n e :
www.nunes.house.gov Additional information from the Department of Homeland Security can be found at: www.ready.gov



Wangyee Vang, Director of the Lao Veterans of America in Fresno and Chong Bee Vang from St. Paul Minnesota meet with Rep. Nunes (March 2003)